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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Heinrich Marti et al.  
SERIAL NO.: Not Yet Known (PCT/EP2004/006884)  
FILED : Concurrently  
FOR : METHOD OF OPERATING A STRIP CASTING  
MACHINE FOR PRODUCING A METAL STRIP  
EXAMINER: -- GROUP: --

Mail Stop: PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application before Action as follows: